



# Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 47th ARRL affiliated year

March 1995

Volume 3 Issue 7

## H.C.R.A. Notes.....

Last month's HCRA featured a interesting topic about television satellites. It is amazing all the different channels that are available. Special thanks go out to Scott Vining who presented the meeting. Also thanks go out to you, the members. We had a great turnout of 55 people! Be sure to join us again this month. Don't forget our new reduced price on the refreshments, now only 25 cents!

The HCRA has changed its address. Please make a note of it. The new address is: P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA, 01001-562.

Field Day has returned after a year off. This year it will be held at the



*This month will feature a meeting about antennas, feedlines, and SWR. Also, Field Day is back. Plan on attending! It will take place on the last full weekend in June.*

Agawam High School on June 24-25. We are looking for participants. We also traditionally have had a cookout in conjunction with Field Day. Contact Barry, N1IJK at the next meeting if you are interested. Look for more in future Zero Beats, as well as announcements at the meetings as Field Day approaches. (See you at the March meeting!)

## Next H.C.R.A. Meeting.....

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will Take place on Friday night March 3, 1995 and will feature an interesting presentation about feedlines, antennas, and SWR. We were fortunate to have this program in the past and it will be great to have it again this year. Ed Hare, KA1CV, a popular speaker from the ARRL will be presenting the meeting. This would be a great opportunity for any technically related or other type questions you may have on this topic. Doors will open at 7:30 and the meeting will begin around 8:00 P.M. We hope to see you there!

## Future Meetings.....

The following is a tentative schedule for the remainder of the 1994-95 club season:

**March 3-** "Antennas, Feedlines, Grounds, SWR, and other Mythical Creatures." (60 minutes) This 20-minute slide presentation discusses some of the myths about antennas, feedlines, grounds, baluns, and SWR. It answers some of the questions that are repeatedly asked of the ARRL lab. See above for more information.

**April 7-** Radio Astronomy. A speaker will be coming from the University of Massachusetts.

**June 2-** Annual Banquet and election of officers. We would like to have it across the street from the church at Alexander's Restaurant this year. See elsewhere in this issue.

**June 22+23-** ARRL Field Day. After a year off, the club is ready for another exciting

**Feeding Hills  
Congregational Church  
JCT of Routes 57 & 187  
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts**

The next board meeting will take place on March 9, 1995 and will be at Adam Olson's QTH. If you are interested in attending, please ask Adam N1GVV for directions at the next meeting. Remember, anyone can attend the board meetings.

## Happy St. Patrick's Day!



## In This Issue....

President's Message.....	Page 2
I Kerchunk, Therefore I am.....	Page 2
Application for Board.....	Page 3
Kenwood Corner.....	Page 6
Ham Call Sign Choice will be Available Soon.	Page 7

# **I Kerchunk, Therefore I am.....**

## **I KERCHUNK, THEREFORE I AM**

**Kerchunk:** Either a verb or a noun, but usually a verb. From the German, kerchunken; to kerchunk a repeater. "I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks."

Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being "rubbed the wrong way," but has resulted in many a nice QSO.

A good kerchunk tells you many things:

1. Your transmitter is working.
2. Your receiver is working.
3. Your antenna is working.
4. The repeater is there.
5. The repeater receiver is working.
6. The repeater transmitter is working.
7. The repeater antenna(s) is (are) working.
8. The call of the repeater.

Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always a higher quality than his kerchunk.

"I love the smell of kerchunk in the morning."

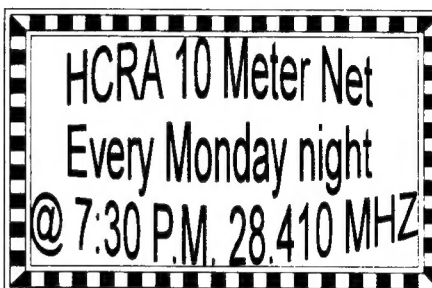
There is a local chapter of KA soon to form in this area. MFJ will soon market a kerchunk detector which will print out each month the date, time, and call for each and every kerchunk.

It will result in the FCC charging 25 cents per kerchunk. It will be added to your income tax. The new 1040-K forms are being printed even as I type.

National Kerchunk Day will be established by congress next year. On this day only kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in a conversation will lose his kerchunking privileges for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Recently, kerchunkers have been heard on 20 and 25M. Is this a trend? When I operate 6M, I sometimes kerchunk my neighbor's TV. Have you kerchunked your repeater today? There will soon be an award, "KAS." 73 de K9CUN, Jack.

The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (Reprinted from *Worldradio*, April 1993)



## **1995 H.C.R.A. Board of Directors**



### **Officers**

<b>President</b>	N1IJK	Barry Mason
<b>Vice President</b>	N1GVV	Adam Olson
<b>Treasurer</b>	N1AEH	Greg Stoddard
<b>Secretary</b>	N1DUY	Jim Sebolt

### **Directors**

#### **Expiring 1995**

N1FOW	Mike Griffin
N1KBY	Jeff Hugabone
N1RAL	Daniel McKay
WA1OHR	Everett Paluska

#### **Expiring 1996**

K1PZS	Harvey Broverman
K1CYD	George Corcoran
<b>NR1L*</b>	<b>Kevin Hilinski</b>
KA1YZV	Donald Lynch

Coffee + Donuts: Don + Betty Mish  
Zero Beat: Kevin Hilinski NR1L - Editor \*, Mike Griffin N1FOW & Adam Olson N1GVV - Zero Beat Assistance (folding & stamps)  
\* resigning term, will need a replacement

## **President's Message**

Spring Greetings! Well, I might be a bit early, but it's hard not to be thinking spring with most of the snow melting.

This month's meeting is one not to be missed. Ed Hare, KA1CV, from the ARRL lab will be our guest speaker. Ed has spoken to us before and is always very informative and entertaining. Ed will be speaking about a few popular subjects, antennas, feedlines, and SWR. Bring all your tough questions, as Ed is the one who can answer them!

April will also be an interesting meeting. Professor Andy Harris from the UMass Radio Astronomy department will be speaking on high frequency heterodyning, and receiving.

This year our annual fleamarket will be held (tentatively) in the end of October - more info next month.

Also, please our **packet station** is **on the air!** Steve, N1SR is the sysop. Thanks for taking on this important position, Steve, on behalf of both the HCRA, and the many amateurs who have been calling to find out the status. Also, I would like to take another moment to thank Bob, NQ1C, for having done a great job these past years.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73,  
Barry

**HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P.O. BOX 562  
Agawam, MA 01001-0562

**APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Print your name here) (Callsign)

Hereby place my name in nomination for election to the office indicated below:  
(Circle one candidate office below)

**President**

**Vice- President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary/Clerk**

**Director (2 year term)**

**Director (1 year term fill-in)**

**Zero Beat Editor**

I certify that I am now, and will maintain my status as, a current regular member, and if elected, will uphold the duties of the office and the standards of the HCRA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign Here)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Return this form when completed to the HCRA Secretary/Clerk.

***June Election Info.....***

Well, it is coming close to that time of year again, the HCRA's annual election. If you are interested in running for a position, we strongly recommend it this year! This would be a great opportunity for you to participate and help turn this club into one of the best around. This year we will have several positions open for candidates. President, Vice President, and five board positions. Don't be shy, if you are interested please contact Barry, N1IJK, or any other club officer to find out what is involved. It really is really rewarding and looks great on a resume! You can also fill out the

application form in the space above, and bring it to the next meeting. Just give it to Jim Sebolt, N1DUY. Or mail it to the club P.O. Box. If you want to see what goes on, you can attend the board meeting on March 9 at 7:30 P.M. This month's board meeting will occur at Dave and Adam Olson's house, located in Enfield, CT off of route 5. Don't Hesitate to ask for directions at the next meeting. This would be a great chance for you to experience exactly what goes on at one of these meetings. Anyone is welcome. See page 4 in this issue for more information about the election.

***Zero Beat is a monthly publication except in July and August by the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. Any article may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the publication and its author(s). This issue would not be possible without the help of Dave and Adam Olson Thanks, EDITOR***

## ***June Banquet Info....***

This year we would like to hold our Annual June Banquet, Friday, June 2, at a restaurant instead of holding it at the church, as we did for the past two years. We would like to hold the banquet at *Alexander's Restaurant*, which is located across the street from our usual meeting place. We will be offering to our members, and non-members if you wish to bring a guest, a Buffet-Style banquet.

The Buffet will consist of six items: Sausage & Ziti, Meatballs, Vegetable Medley, Cold Meat & Cheese Tray, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes and Salad.

The cost per person will be \$12.00, which *includes* your tax and gratuities. Drinks other than water will be at an additional cost.

We need to know if you will be attending our Banquet by the March Meeting, at the latest. We will reserve the first 5 minutes of the meeting to talk about the Banquet. We also ask that you bring your payment in full to the meeting. As we must have a firm commitment by the members because we have to reserve the evening for the banquet by March 10. We also need a minimum of 50 people to attend the banquet. We can not accept a promise by you that you will come and will pay later. We have to make a firm commitment with Alexander's and we will not be able to back out once we have started. You may pay in cash or by check but do not make checks payable ahead of time. If we do not have a reasonable number of people sign up to hold the banquet we will not collect cash and will talk about our second alternative. We would really like to hold the banquet elsewhere this year and we assume you do too.

You also do not need to attend the Buffet if you wish to attend the Annual Election of Officers. We will discuss Banquet detail in full at the March meeting, so make sure you are there if you wish to attend.

Thank you, The Executive Membership.

# Kenwood Corner

The following information was provided by Kenwood, in order to give hams greater knowledge concerning Kenwood products.

## **Kenwood Dual-Band TH-79A(D) Deluxe Version:**

Kenwood is excited to announce a new version of the popular TH-79A miniature handheld HT radio. The Kenwood TH-79A(D) Deluxe, (144MHz/440MHz), has a new and versatile dot-matrix liquid crystal LCD display. The TH-79A(D) also has the world's first built-in operators manual and guide function program. The guide function offers optimum operation ease and powerful performance. This slim, truly pocket size HT can access most operations functions normally found in the manual right from the dot-matrix LCD. Instructions are in plain English with complete words and sentences of instructions for operation. You'll never

forget how to perform a function! The new radio also has incorporated a memory lock-out feature. In addition, it also has a new improved high performance antenna. A FET high efficiency power module helps keep this radio lightweight and slim while enabling extra long hours of operation. Only 6 volts produces 2.7 watts with the standard PB-32 battery or 9.6 volts and 5 watts with the optional PB-34 battery. Besides the standard wall charger, a rapid rate desktop charger KSC-14 with dual charging stations and the KSC-8A, a single station regular rate desktop charger. Both desktop chargers use a unique adapter dish to accommodate other Kenwood batteries. A complete line of optional accessories are available from your AUTHORIZED Kenwood Dealer.

### **Cloning Your Kenwood:**

Did you know that your Kenwood TH-

28A, TH-48A, TH-78A, TH-22AT, TH-42AT, TH-79A, TM-733A, and TM-251A can clone, or "copy" each other. Any of these radios can clone complete frequency data stored in memory to another of the same model such as the TH-79A to TH-79A. This feature can be extremely useful in clubs, families, or just friends who share the same exact model Kenwood radio. This saves a lot of time and also can make it a breeze for a new ham to start operating without having to spend hours programming their new radio. Each model has its own clone mode. If you need cloning information on a specific model, just call or fax Kenwood!

Kenwood Customer Relations  
2201 E. Dominguez St., P.O. Box  
22745  
Long Beach, CA  
90801-5745

## **More Election Info....**

As was mentioned on page 3, we will be needing interested club members to help the club out by running for the executive board or one of the director seats. We will also need a *Zero Beat* editor, as was mentioned on page 6. Please think about this and fill out the form on page three if you would like to help out. The club will not survive without people to run it! This year we will need a lot of positions filled. They are: President, Vice President, Four new board positions, and one filling term for expiring 1996, due to the resignation of Kevin, NR1L (He is relocating.) The election, will be held in conjunction with the June meeting, see later *Zero Beat* for information on time and place. Similar to last year, ~~nominations will be taken from the floor. That means will be elected if:~~ 1. They are p. tive



## Ham Call Sign Choice will commence soon!.....

**T**he FCC has announced its intention to implement a vanity call sign program, and also to resume the issuance of club and military recreation station licenses. On February 1, 1995, the Commission released its Report and Order in PR Docket 93-305, "Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to Implement a Vanity Call Sign System."

Amateurs will be eligible to apply for a call sign of their choice in four "gates." The first group will eligible to apply will be previous holders of a call sign or the close relative of a previous holder of an amateur call sign who is deceased. The second group will be Amateur Extra Class licensees; the third Advanced; the fourth, all others.

The FCC will announce the date of opening of each "gate" by public notice.

The effective date of the new rules is March 24, 1995. The FCC said that the first gate will open as soon as a new application form, FCC Form 610-V, is available and the Commission's licensing facility is prepared to begin processing the applications - no sooner than April, according to FCC staff.

In the case of applications for the call signs of deceased amateurs, normally the call sign will not be available for two years following the person's death or for two years following the expiration of the license. The exception to this rule is that a relative of the deceased amateur may apply for the call sign without regard to the two-year rule.

Club station call signs will be issued systematically from the two-by-three block, unless under the fourth "gate" the trustee of an existing club station applies for the call sign of a deceased member as a

vanity call sign for the club. The trustee's application must be accompanied by the written consent of at least one relative of the deceased club member, and the two-year waiting period noted above is waived.

"Close relative" is defined as "spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law" for purposes of determining eligibility for a deceased amateur's call sign.

A close relative may apply for the call sign of a deceased amateur without regard to license class; that is, a Novice licensee may apply for a call sign otherwise assigned to a higher license class "block."

Club station trustees - but not RACES or military recreation trustees - will be able to request specific club call signs in the "gate" determined by their own class of operator license. If the trustee is an Amateur Extra Class licensee, he or she may apply for the same call (provided it's been vacant at least two years) in Gate Two, either for themselves or for the club, without asking anyone's permission.

Applications for new club and military recreation station licenses with sequential call signs will be accepted beginning March 24, 1995. A club must have such a license in order to be eligible to apply (later) for a vanity club call.

The fee for the use of vanity call signs will be \$7 per year, or \$70 for a 10-year license term. The FCC said that "because the normal term of an amateur station license is ten years, a fee of \$70.00 will have to be paid when requesting a new or renewed vanity call sign.

"At this time," the FCC said,

"under the Communications Act, we cannot provide a one-time fee for processing vanity call sign applications."

Amateurs will be able to list up to 25 call sign choices, from any call area. The ARRL had said it preferred that the traditional call area system be kept intact, and the FCC said it "carefully considered this suggestion."

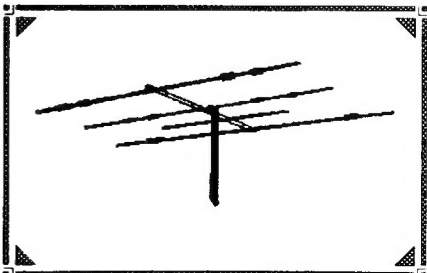
But, the FCC said it chose not to "impose that limitation," because "otherwise, the applicant's choice of vanity call signs would be reduced to ten percent or less of the call signs that would otherwise be assignable to the station.

"A limitation based on the person's place of residence, moreover, could be easily be circumvented by using a mailing address in another call sign region," the FCC said.

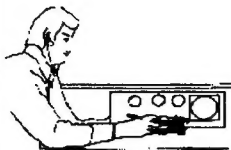
The ARRL also had asked that specific call signs in a unique call sign block be made assignable to certain special event stations, and suggested the one-by-one call sign block for such stations. The FCC said that it would set aside that block until it could address the matter later, in a separate proceeding.

More information was in July 1994 *QST*, page 84; June *QST*, page 81; and February *QST*, page 84.

Reprinted from the *ARRL Letter*, February 2, 1995.



# March Meeting: Ed Hare, KA1CV



**Friday March 3, 1995**  
Doors Open at 7:30 P.M.  
Meeting will begin around 8:00 P.M.



## Antennas, Feedlines, Grounds, and SWR

### Attention HCRA Members, Important information!!!

Due to a possibility of a job, I will be relocating to Lake Placid, NY. This, in turn, will mean that I will be forced to resign from my current positions as both Board of Director and Newsletter editor. I have really enjoyed working with the club the last five years. My last *Zero Beat* issue will be this coming May. We need a replacement. If you are anyway interested, contact me at the next meeting. I will work with anyone who will replace me until they feel comfortable doing it. You do not need a computer to do this. Special thanks go out to all who have helped me in the past! Best wishes, 73, Kevin NR1L



Written  
Microwav  
reports w  
of Nover  
432  
Indian Orchard, Mass. 01  
Antennas and Amateur  
Related Accessories  
Stan Bates N1INB  
(413) 543-5654  
unsucce  
having  
on the  
that n  
withc

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01001-0562



Forwarding + Address correction requested

First Class Mail

RCIT E V C R 14 I 18/95